



# State Senator **NANCY CASSIS** *WORKING FOR YOU*

*I'm honored and proud to represent the 15<sup>th</sup> Senate District comprising a diverse, and growing economy that is well respected throughout the state as a great place to live, raise and educate a family, and do business. Working for our communities has yielded some meaningful results that I want to share with you. As always, my first and foremost commitment is to serve the needs and interests of this outstanding district. Working together, our competent and able staff is available to assist you with your needs at the state level.*

## Economy

- Authored an amendment to SB 922 that **gives the city of Wixom a renaissance zone that can be used if the Ford Wixom Plant is abandoned**. The city of Wixom could use this as a tool to redevelop the site by offering a 100% tax abatement to anybody that redevelops this site.
- Introduced SB 965, SB 966 and SB 1006 which will **assure that Metroparks continue to receive funding from the state that they lost after the summer property tax shift**.
- Senator Cassis, a strong small business advocate, introduced a legislative package to create jobs, provide and maintain health benefits, and sharpen Michigan's competitive edge by **eliminating the state's tax penalty on employer-funded health benefits** under the Single Business Tax. **SB 672 and 673 reduce the health care tax** by 5% in 2004, 20% in 2005, 40% in 2006 and **50%** beginning in 2007. Bills passed the Legislature and are now Public Acts 240 and 241 of 2003.
- As Chair of the House Tax Policy Committee and now Senate Finance Committee, **Senator Cassis has worked hard to enable Michigan taxpayers to keep more of their hard-earned money**. For example, she sponsored the phase-down of our income tax to 3.9% and the elimination the Single Business Tax by 2012.
- Sponsored SB 780 (PA 17 of 2004) to assist **Holly and Groveland Townships** in their coordinated effort to be eligible to capture tax dollars and turn unused gravel pits into a high-tech development, bringing **jobs** to Oakland County.
- Sponsored PA 283 of 2003 to assist the **Village and Township of Milford**, by allowing local units of government that are liable for contamination to capture school operating taxes under the Brownfield Redevelopment Act to assist in the cleanup. This bill is limited to landfills and would be effective starting in the 2005 tax year.
- Introduced SB 811 (PA 274 of 2003) to ensure personal property tax exemption for **"special tools"** used by manufacturers. Without enactment, there was a serious threat of more businesses/jobs leaving Michigan.
- Senator Cassis is continuing her efforts to **simplify the Tax Code for Michigan taxpayers** with legislation such as Public Act 486 of 2002, which requires the Department of Treasury to list all credits, deductions and exemptions available to taxpayers in an easy-to-read format on-line and in state income tax instruction booklets.
- Authored Public Act 114 of 2005 which raised **the income threshold to be eligible for a summer property tax deferment to \$40,000** for individuals who are at least 62 years of age.
- Authored Public Act 114 of 2006 (SB 859) which will **allow a totally and permanently disabled individual to claim a homestead property exemption** when they live in a residence that was purchased for them by a trust.
- Sponsored SB 957 to **cut the alternative tax rate for small businesses** from 2% to 1%. This bill will affect 35,000 small businesses throughout Michigan.



- Sponsored SB 453, now PA 372 of 2006 that **created the Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit**. This allows a taxpayer to claim a refundable credit against the Michigan income tax of up to 20% of the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit.
- Sponsored SB 634, now PA 295 of 2005, which amends the Single Business Tax Act to **implement a two-year phase-in of the increased sales factor apportionment**. Beginning December 31, 2005 the property factor becomes 3.75%, the payroll factor becomes 3.75% and the sales factor becomes 92.5%. Starting December 31, 2007 the property factor becomes 2.5%, the payroll factor becomes 2.5% and the sales factor become 95%
- Authored SB 94, now PA 36 of 2007, which **creates the new Michigan Business Tax (MBT)**. The MBT included relief for Michigan's manufacturing sector and also included the new Michigan Entrepreneurial Credit (ME-2) authored by Sen. Cassis that will provide three years of tax free status to businesses that invest \$1.25 million and add 20 jobs. For more information on the tax plan visit <http://www.senatornancycassis.com>.



## **EDUCATION**

- As a former public school teacher, school psychologist, and Vice-Chair of the Senate Education Committee, Senator Cassis knows that a quality education is the key that unlocks the future.
- Initiated **landmark legislative package to prevent early learning failure "SAVE"** and give students the skills they need to succeed both in school and in life. Senate Bills 324-330, 2005 (PA's 118-121 of 2006)
- The Legislative budget **saved the Michigan Merit Award scholarships** at \$2,500 for Michigan students.
- Sponsored Senate Bill 307 which requires school districts to **create and implement a parental involvement plan**. This bill was passed unanimously and signed into law by the Governor on May 25, 2004 (PA 107 2004).
- Introduced Senate Bill 365 which streamlines information reported to the state by schools through CEPI (Center for Educational Performance and Information), **cutting costs for school districts**. This bill passed the Legislature unanimously and was signed into law by the Governor on October 3, 2003.
- Authored PA 139 of 2005 which provides **sentencing guidelines for sex offenders who live, work or loiter in a student safety zone**.
- Authored PA 137 of 2005 **revising membership on the special education advisory board**.
- Authored PA 118 of 2006 **established additional requirements** regarding reading instructions for the renewal of the a teachers provisional certificate or a teacher's professional certificate.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH**

- Cassis sponsored the legislative amendment in 2002 allowing hospitals to transfer up to one-third of their unused beds to growing communities that are in desperate need of quality health care that is accessible. The Michigan Court of Appeals upheld the legislation allowing **Henry Ford Health System and St. John Health to transfer beds** from existing hospitals to facilities in West Bloomfield and Novi.
- Sen. Cassis was instrumental in securing Senate approval for legislation **keeping the Groveland Township State Police Post open** ensuring no loss of law enforcement coverage in the affected areas.
- Introduced Senate Bill 795, now PA 454 of 2004, **Social Security Number Protection Act**, to prohibit disclosing to a third-party or publicly displaying the Social Security number of a person, unless that person consents or the disclosure is authorized by law. This bill has passed the Senate and is in the House Criminal Justice Committee.
- Introduced Senate Bill 784 (PA 112 of 2004) as part of a two-bill package to criminalize the act of **Hazing in our schools** (K-12 and universities). Punishment ranges from a misdemeanor to felony, dependent on the specific situation and the resulting injury or death. These bills are pending before the full Senate.
- Senator Cassis sponsored legislation, now PA 712 of 2002, that codified **Amber Alert of Michigan** and specified that the Michigan State Police will maintain it. In 2005, she sponsored legislation to penalize people who falsely report an Amber Alert, Senate Bills 74 and 134.



- Authored PA 207 of 2005 which amended Amber Alert of Michigan to provide **sentencing guidelines for intentionally falsely reporting the abduction of a child.**
- Sponsored a package of bills to **protect and advance the professionalism, ethics and integrity of the residential building industry** while giving consumers greater confidence and security in those they hire. Senate Bills 450-453
- Sponsored SB 387 & 388 which **protects consumers who purchase gift cards** by prohibiting anybody selling gift cards from creating an expiration date of less than five years or from charging an inactivity fee.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

- Senator Cassis sponsored Senate Bill 502 (PA 37 of 2004) part of Senate package **that restricts waste coming into Michigan** from other states or Canada unless their regulatory program is as protective as Michigan's. Public Act 37 is the **only law that has been upheld by the federal courts** to meet constitutional requirements.
- Sponsored Senate Resolution 12 in 2003, urging Congress to **pass legislation giving states the authority to control foreign waste.**
- Introduced SB 718 (PA 283 of 2003) to assist the Village and Township of **Milford** in their financing of cleaning up an outdated landfill.



## **TRANSPORTATION**

- Senator Cassis was instrumental in **reinstating the reconstruction of the I-96 and Beck Road Interchange**, one of the 34 road projects delayed by the Governor and the Michigan Department of Transportation. Six of the 17 reinstated projects were in Oakland County.
- Senator Cassis offered an amendment to SB 281(2005) which instructed the Department of Transportation to complete the construction of the I-96 and Wixom Rd. interchange project. She will continue to work for the **reinstatement of the I-96 and Wixom Road Interchange** project, and other road projects that are vital to the health and safety of our motorists and the economic development of our county and state.
- Cassis was able to **secure a \$70,000 MDOT grant** for a management access study to reduce the number of curb cuts along M-59 in White Lake. This will improve traffic safety along this heavily congested corridor.
- Senator Cassis spearheaded numerous meetings with residents, township officials, representatives of the Michigan Department of Transportation and Ramco-Gershenson Construction to help alleviate a serious traffic hazard in our community. The result was an engineering design that will significantly deter, if not completely stop, left turns out of the **White Lake Marketplace** onto M-59.
- Senator Cassis facilitated a meeting with MDOT and Wolverine Lake local officials to **receive a grant for constructing a non-motorized pathway** connecting to the Oakland County trail system and completing a trail around the entire lake.
- Introduced SB 117 that **requires 25mph speed limit signs that were in place prior to November 9, 2006 on gravel roads in Oakland County to remain in place** until the state police have conducted traffic and engineering studies to determine appropriate speeds or until December 1, 2012

